**Guidelines for Reading Workshop**

1. Read a book or write your thoughts about your reading.
2. Work silently so that you and your classmates can do your best thinking.
3. Use a soft voice when conferring with a teacher.
4. Select books that you think you’ll enjoy and abandon books that aren’t working for you after you’ve given them a chance.
5. List the book information when you begin and record the date when you finish
6. Always do your best

**Genres at a Glance**

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| **Fiction** | | |
| **Code** | **Genre** | **Definition** |
| TL | Traditional Literature | Stories that are passed down orally from one group to another in history. This includes folktales, fairy tales, fables, legends, and myths from different cultures. |
| F | Fantasy | Made-up stories that have some elements that could not be true or could not happen in this world (e.g., fairies, talking animals). |
| SF | Science Fiction | A type of fantasy that uses science and technology (e.g., robots, time machines). |
| RF | Realistic Fiction | Stories that can be true to life but are mostly from the author’s imagination. |
| HF | Historical Fiction | Stories that take place in the past and are from the author’s imagination. They have some truth in them |
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| **Nonfiction** | | |
| **Code** | **Genre** | **Definition** |
| I | Informational | Texts that provide factual information to readers. |
| B | Biography | The author tells the story of a real person’s life. |
| AB | Autobiography | The person tells the story of his/her own life. |
| M | Memoir | The author tells about an experience or part of his or her life. |

**Reading List**

Select a book to read. Enter the title and author on your reading list. When you have completed it, write the genre and the date. If you have abandoned it, write (**A**) and the date you abandoned it in the date column. Note whether the book was easy (**E**), just right (**JR**), or a challenging (**C**) book for you.

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| **#** | **Title** | **Author** | **Genre**  **Code** | **Date**  **Completed** | **E, JR, C** |
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**Books to Read**

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| **Title** | **Author** | **Check When Completed** |
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**How to Give a Book Talk**

1. **Purpose**
   * Get readers excited about a book, author, series, or genre.
2. **Prepare**
   * Make sure you’ve read the book.
   * Choose a book that readers will like.
   * Think about what is interesting about your book.
   * Think about the lead—how you will capture the readers’ interest.
   * Write page numbers and a few notes on a “stickie.”
3. **Present**
   * Show the book.
   * Start with a good lead.
   * Tell the author, title, genre.
   * Explain why you chose to share the book.
   * Tell a little about the book, but don’t give away secrets.
   * Mention other books by the same author or other books in a series.
4. **Remember**
   * Look at everyone.
   * Speak clearly.
   * Show your enthusiasm.
   * Keep it short!

**Ways to Have a Good Discussion**

1. Be prepared.
2. Sit so everyone can see everyone else.
3. Get started right away.
4. Look at the person who is talking.
5. Listen to understand.
6. Ask questions to understand better.
7. Speak clearly but not too loudly.
8. Wait for the speaker to finish.
9. Use language that invites the opinions of others.
10. Be sure everyone gets a turn.
11. Build on one another’s ideas.
12. Respect one another’s ideas
13. Stay on topic.
14. Provide evidence from your experience or from the text to support your thinking.

**Possible Topics for Your Letters**

Share your thinking about:

* Something that surprised you or that you found interesting
* What you like or dislike about the book and why
* An interesting or important character
* Parts of the book that puzzled you or made you ask questions
* What the story means to you
* Your thoughts and feelings about the author’s message
* What you noticed about the characters, such as what made them act as they did or how they changed
* Why you think the author chose the title
* Your predictions and whether they were right
* How the information in the book fits with what you already know
* How the book reminds you of yourself, or people you know, or of something that happened in your life
* How the book is like other books by the same author, on the same topic, or in the same genre
* How the book reminds you of other books, especially the characters, events, or setting
* How the illustrations add meaning to the story
* The ending and your feelings about it
* The language the author used and what you thought about it
* The author’s craft –what was good about the author’s writing
* Why you chose the book
* Why you think the author wrote the book
* Whether or not you would recommend the book to another reader and why
* What you would change about the book
* Examples of stereotypes or biases
* Whether the book is easy, just right, or challenging for you and how you know
* The genre and its characteristics
* The author’s use of time in the story
* How the setting affects the characters
* How the author captured your interest or pulled you into the book
* How the author builds suspense
* What you want to remember about this book
* New insights or understandings you have
* Why you abandoned the book

**Form for a Friendly Letter**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | |  |
| Greeting, | |  |
|  | Paragraph 1 | |
|  | | |
|  | Paragraph 2 | |
|  | | |
|  | Paragraph 3 | |
|  | | |
| Closing, | |  |
| Signature | |  |

**Guidelines for Proofing a Friendly Letter**

1. Reread your letter to be sure it makes sense.
2. Be sure you have responded to what the teacher or a peer wrote to you.
3. Write the date.
4. Check the greeting and closing.
5. Check your spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

**Preparing for Book Discussion**

Read and think about…

* What you find interesting or surprising
* How the author makes you feel
* What you like/dislike about the writing
* What the author is trying to say and how you feel about it
* What the book makes you think
* Your reaction to the characters
* How the book reminds you of your life
* How the book reminds you of other books
* How the book is similar to or different from other books by this author or other books in this genre
* What you don’t understand, find confusing, or have questions about
* What you notice about the illustrations
* What you want to remember about the book
* Places where the author gives good descriptions
* What you think the author is really trying to say
* What you notice about the author’s craft
* How the author used time
* Examples of stereotypes or other biases
* What you notice about the author’s language, word choice, or style
* What you learned